

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

TRANSLATION

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)
Applicant's or agent's file reference 06N-00-07478		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/016116	International filing date (day/month/year) 29.10.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.10.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC		
Applicant NIKON CORPORATION		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the opinion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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Box No. I	Basis of this opinion
	<p>1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).</p> <p>2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:</p> <p>a. type of material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing</p> <p>b. format of material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in written format</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in computer readable form</p> <p>c. time of filing/furnishing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.</p> <p>4. Additional comments:</p>

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Box No. V <u>Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</u>																									
<p>1. Statement</p> <table> <tr> <td align="center">Novelty (N)</td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td>1-5</td> <td align="center">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td></td> <td align="center">NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">Inventive step (IS)</td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td></td> <td align="center">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td>1-5</td> <td align="center">NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">Industrial applicability (IA)</td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td>1-5</td> <td align="center">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td align="center">Claims</td> <td></td> <td align="center">NO</td> </tr> </table>		Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES		Claims		NO	Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES		Claims	1-5	NO	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES		Claims		NO
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES																						
	Claims		NO																						
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES																						
	Claims	1-5	NO																						
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES																						
	Claims		NO																						

2. Citations and explanations:

Novelty

The inventions of claims 1-5 are not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the ISR and they appear to possess novelty.

Inventive step

The inventions of claims 1-5 do not appear to involve an inventive step over documents 1 and 2 cited in the ISR.

Document 2 discloses correction of the distortion occurring with a photographing lens in block units. Document 1 (claims; paragraphs 0035 to 0036; Fig. 4) discloses use of the symmetry of the distortion aberration related to the center point and the center line of an image at the time of correcting distortion aberration caused by a photographic lens, namely, correction of distortion aberration using the correction amount of 1/4 of the total image area delimited by center line X4 and center line Y4 in Fig. 4(a). Then, dividing the image into blocks so that "the vertical line and the horizontal line through the origin" mentioned in this application are not included and correcting distortion aberration in order to perform distortion correction in block units and using the symmetry of distortion aberration related to the center point and the center line of an image can be easily achieved by a person skilled in the art.

Industrial applicability

The inventions of claims 1-4 are image processing methods and image processing devices, and they have industrial applicability. The invention of claim 5 is a program for performing image processing on a computer, and it has some industrial applicability.

Cited documents

1. JP 2001-86332 A (Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.), 30 March 2001
2. JP 11-250238 A (Kyocera Corp.), 17 September 1999
3. JP 2000-200344 A (Minolta Co., Ltd.), 18 July 2000

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Box No. VI	Certain documents cited		
1.	Certain published documents (Rule 43bis.1 and 70.10)		
Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)
JP 2004-64710 A	26.02.2004	31.07.2002	
[P, A]			
2.	Non-written disclosures (Rule 43bis.1 and 70.9)		
Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	